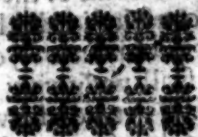


THE
EARLE
OF
STRAFFORD

Characterized

In a LETTER sent to a friend in the
Country.



Anno Domini 1641.



The Earle of STRAFFORD
CHARACTERIZED

In a Letter sent to a friend in the
Country, 1641.

Noble Sir,

I Am inforced to complain of your impetuous commands, and the taxe you impose on me (above all the rest of your vassals) but especially of this of my Lord of *Straffords*; as though I alone were inspired with an illumination beyond the wisdom of the Parliament, which on so long consultation hath not yet determined the articulate point of your question, yet thus much I shall positively deliver as a part of my belief: That howsoever my Lord of *Strafford* be cryed up for a most incomparable and accomplished instrument of State, yet he is humane, and subject to such infirmities as were incident to our first Progenitors, and this is a particular of my faith, not of my opinion.

But if it may satisfy your curiosity to be informed of the generall conceptions, I shall then

then present you with as various a collection of votes and censures, as there are fancies in the severall factions daily raised by the work of Art and Time which qualifieth payson, mobiliseth flirts, and changerh the face of all things from their first beings and appearances which have much befriended my Lord of *Strafford*.

But whether his Lordship be guilty of high treason, I cannot determine.

Sure it is many foule things stick upon him by manifest proofs, which neither his finenessse of wit, nor all the fig-leaves in Paradise can cover.

True it is the House of Commons stand aisse to make good their first charges, which are now inforced and prosecuted to the last Article this very day, which should it not prove Treason on joynt rehearfall of the House, and so adjudged by the Lords, it would then seem to me to be a strain of popular furie, rather than the legitimate issue of a Court of Parliament.

True it is, that before the quarter-part of the accusations were charged on him, he was by way of prejudication acquitted by many of both Sexes, and favoured not of a few of both Houses, and some of his Majesties Councell, and the Papisticall party his friends and followers, and generally by Ladies.

The first reasons are best known unto themselves.

By

My

By the second, for respects due to their Patron.

By the third, for interests and obligations of dependencie.

By the fourth, (if well considered) for many feminine and affected considerations. As the naturall pitie and consideration of women sympathizing with his afflictions, with sadnesse of his aspect, their facilitie with his complacencies, their lenity with his patheticall oratorie.

On the other side, there is a rigid strong and inflexible partie, that say if he be not found a Traytor, the Parliament must make him so for the Interest of the Publique.

And so I shall present you with the inclinations of another party, and of no despicable number of Accompt; which pretend to have a more soliditie of judgement then to be carried away with private interest, partiall respects which seem to be touched with the Kings and the Commons safety, and to be sensible of the Commons sufferance.

And these commonly rip up his life and conversation together, with the progresse of his estate and fortunes, and all concluding for his descent and Family to be of the noblest and highest ranke of Gentry under the degree of Barronage, his Patrimony so plentifull, as that it equalizes most of the Barons of the Land, his education noble, and to these of his own acquisition of strong and able naturall parts.

And

And (if the addage be true that *mulier ex conspectu*
quiescit;) and though they marke him for a
 wise and promising face, yet they unhappily
 observe in him, a dark and promiscuous coun-
 tenance, clouded, unlovely, and presaging an
 envious and cruell disposition. And this gene-
 rall *Quere* is made of him.

What was that which he would have had
 who (suspicion excepted) might have beene a
 King at home, had not restless ambition (ha-
 bituated in his nature) interrupted the course
 of his repose, and disordered the many helpes
 he had to have lived in plenty, and dyed in fe-
 licitie.

But disquited (as all ambition is turbulent)
 in his cogitations and in his first exposition (a-
 gitated by the blasts of his own aspirations) it is
 sayd of him that in his own Countrey he was
 transported by the violence of his will to car-
 rie all before him (and come what would of it)
 to overthrow all that withstood him.

Of such predominant a pitch he was in his
 own Constellation, and propension, which
 could not rest there, but must break out into a
 wider extent, for his thoughts soared so high,
 (as men who knew him well affirmed) that he
 held himself injured by the State, that he came
 no sooner to the Helm.

Whither to come, he journeyed thorow a
 Wilderness of popular acclamations, and af-
 fected the dangerous name of King of being
 Sovereign.

Soveraign Protector of the Common-wealth.

For which he so much pretended that in all Parliaments he became an other *Jacques de Molle*. And they overcame it foreruth, that in those times his intimate friends and associates thought it wiselome to shun his conversation, so forward he was in taking the motions of the King and State.

And (as it is said) not without a malignant humour, and a repugnant spirit, alwayes withstood the Kings prohte, and stinted the Parliamentary Contributions at his own will and pleasure, crossing the designs of State, and refusing, by his stubborn example, a spirit of Contradiction in the Assemblies of these times, which how fatall they have been to ours, I leave to your judgement, and which hath ever since bred an aversion in his Majesty towards his people and his Parliaments.

An office wherein they say he did farre more mischief than in this for which he stands now arraigned for his life.

And this is the Description or Abstract of the first part of his life, as he was the Mission of the people, which (they say) he esteems as the folly of his youth.

May you now be pleased to receive something of his second A&T, as he was a Minister of the Kings, into whose service, as they say, and I think not untruely, to have purchased and bought from the affections of the people

at

at a higher price than all the *Provencors* of *Ed:*
the second, and *Richard* the second. For that
this onely man hath cost and lost the King and
the Kingdome more treasure and loyalty than
Peirce, *Gaveston*, and the two *Spencers*, and the
Marquess of *Dublin*, did ever cost, their being
all put together.

And sure I am, it is the common opinion of
the Kingdome that should be taken out of the
hands of Justice, and the revenge of the pub-
like made frustrate, and the expectations of the
three Kingdoms disappointed (who hath inva-
ded the whole by the power of his Counsels,
and the parts by the grievous oppressions of
his Majesties good people, wherefoever he had
to do, they say that his Majesties Dominions
stand in greater danger and hazard, than even,
and (as it may fall out) to be of a more lament-
able Consequence than is fit to be expressed.

How fatall may one mans ambition be, and
his exorbitant humour work towards the dis-
tillation of a State, which they do thus demon-
strate by way of suspicion.

First admitting the Kings affections may be
disposed together with the great party which
he hath in the upper House to acquit him and
others.

And that thereby the House of Commons
should hold themselves bound by the interest
committed unto them by their Countries to
make protestations against the Lords.

What

What then may be of a divided body? Secondly it is questioned whether any future Subsidies will be granted, Customs and Impositions be paid the King without any Insurrection.

Thirdly, whether the Scots will depart the Kingdom; and if they should, whether on good cause they may not return, when they shall see a division to tend to a fatall confusion, both in the heart of the State, and in the body of the Kingdom, rather than they will give opportunity to the Papists and Libertines to come in for a share?

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Wherefore it is generally concluded by the best and most impariall judgements, That there is no proportion between the riddance of a few menstruous and exorbitant members and the generall safety of the King and his Kingdoms.

That there is a necessitated policy of my Lord of *Strafford*, the Bishop, and some others, should be given up as just sacrifice, to appease the people, and to make a compensation for the injury done to them and the publike.

And thus have you the second Act of the great Vice-Royes progresse, with the opinion of all and the best judgements here about the Town, which I finde to be suble to yours in the Country.

FINIS

Endyn's report 1640

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